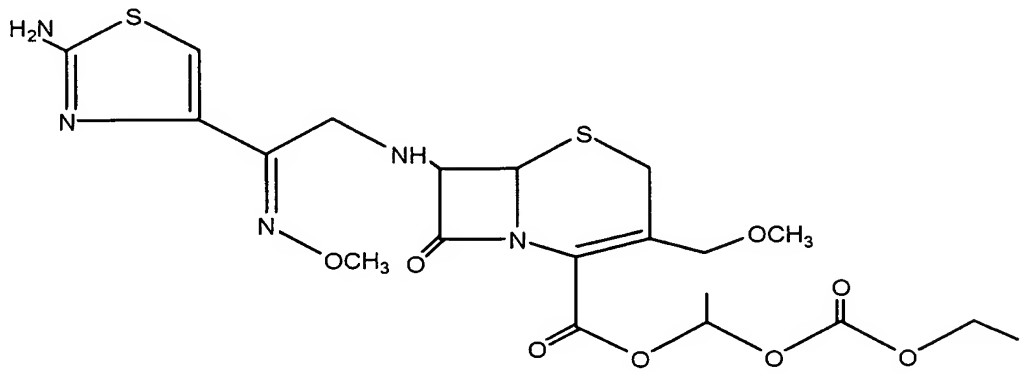
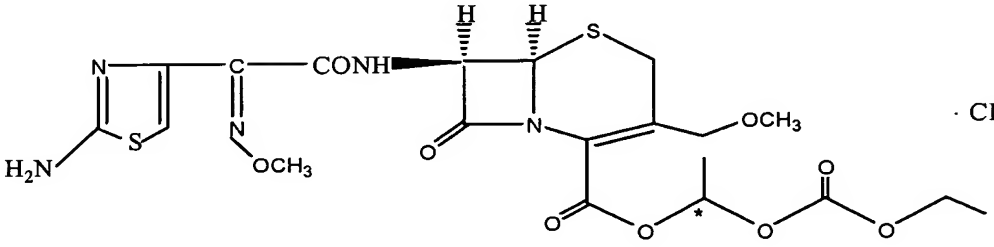
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for obtaining cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I), of high purity conforming to pharmacopoeial specification comprising;



(I)

~~addition of~~ adding a solution of methanesulfonic acid in water to a solution of impure cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I) in an organic solvent to form the corresponding cefpodoxime proxetil methanesulfonate of formula(II^1)[[,]];

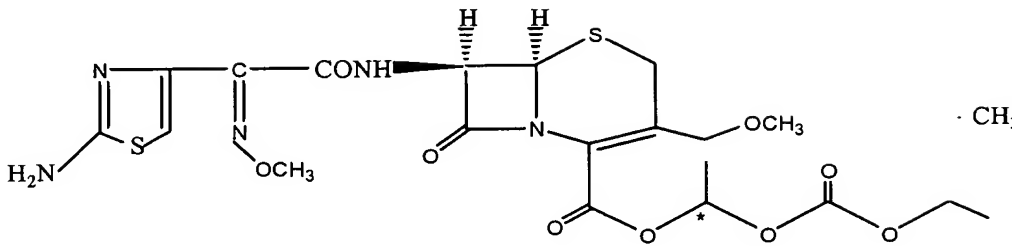


· CH_3SO_3H (II^1)

~~followed by addition of~~ adding a co-solvent and ~~separation~~ separating of the aqueous phase ~~containing~~ comprising cefpodoxime proxetil methanesulfonate of formula (II^1) having a diastereomeric ratio of (R/R+S) between 0.5 to 0.6; ~~and subsequent neutralization of~~ neutralizing the ~~methaneulfonate~~ methanesulfonate salt (II^1) with a base to give cefpodoxime proxetil (I) free of impurities and having a diastereomeric ratio of (R/R+S) between 0.5 to 0.6 or,

~~addition~~ adding of impure cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I) to a solution of methanesulfonate acid in water to form the corresponding solution of cefpodoxime proxetil

methanesulfonate of formula (II[1]) in water,



$\cdot CH_3SO_3H$ (II[1])

2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pure cefpodoxime proxetil is dissolved in a water-miscible organic solvent, followed by optional treatment of the solution with activated charcoal, followed by filtration through a filter aid to remove charcoal and suspended particles and addition of water to the filtrate to precipitate out cefpodoxime proxetil (I) free of impurities and having a diastereomeric ratio of (R/R+S) between 0.5 to 0.6, which can be isolated by filtration.

3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said first organic solvent is a water- immiscible solvent.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the water-immiscible organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, methyl ethyl ketone and methyl iso-butyl ketone.

5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic hydrocarbon, aromatic hydrocarbon and an ether.

6. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of hexane, heptane, cyclopentane and

cyclohexane.

7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon is selected from toluene and xylene.

8. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ether is diethyl ether or diisopropyl ether.

9. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said methanesulfonic acid is employed in a molar ratio of between 1.0 to 2.0 mole equivalent of cefpodoxime proxetil, preferably between 1.5 to 2.0 mole equivalent.

10. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the diastereomeric ratio of(R/R+S) the methanesulfonate salt of formula (II^l) obtained after separation of the organic and aqueous phases is between 0.5 to 0.6.

11. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the base is an inorganic base.

12. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium hydrogen carbonate and potassium hydrogen carbonate.

13. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the pH of the solution after neutralization with the base is 7.0.

14. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 , wherein the pure cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I) after neutralization with a base is isolated by filtration.

15. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the diastereomeric ratio of (R/R+S) pure cefpodoxime proxetil of formula (I) is between 0.5 to 0.6.

16. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 3 ~~to 15~~, wherein the water-miscible organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of lower alcohols ~~such as methanol, ethanol and isopropanol~~; lower alkyl ketones ~~such as acetone~~; lower alkyl glycols ethers ~~such as methyl glycol~~; dipolar aprotic solvents ~~such as N, N-dimethylacetamide and dimethyl sulfoxide~~ and cyclic ethers ~~such as tetrahydrofuran and dioxane~~.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein said methanesulfonic acid is employed in a molar ratio of between 1.0 to 2.0 mole equivalent of cefpodoxime proxetil, preferably between 1.5 to 2.0 mole equivalent.

19. (New) The process according to claim 16, wherein the lower alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol and isopropanol.

20. (New) The process according to claim 16, wherein the lower alkyl ketone is acetone.

21. (New) The process according to claim 16, wherein the lower alkyl glycol ether is methyl glycol.

22. (New) The process according to claim 16, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvent is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylacetamide and dimethyl sulfoxide.

23. (New) The process according to claim 16, wherein the cyclic ether is selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran and dioxane.